

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00682 212033Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AGRE-00 /084 W
-----212211Z 001588 /75-62

P R 211920Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9470

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USSOUTHCOM

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 00682

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, CO

SUBJECT: THE WEEK IN COLOMBIA

1. SUMMARY. EX-PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 18 THAT WHILE HE REMAINED WILLING TO SERVE AGAIN IN HIGH OFFICE, HE WOULD NOT ACTIVELY PURSUE SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY, APPARENTLY HOPING FOR A DRAFT. FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BELISARIO BETANCUR, ONE OF THE MORE POPULAR POTENTIAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR 1978, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE NOMINATION, BUT PRESSURES ON BETANCUR TO RECENT ARE LIKELY TO BE GREAT. THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE SITUATION HAS CAUSED CONCERN OVER FUTURE CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN IMPORTING COUNTRIES. THE ANDEAN PACT JUNTA MET TO CONSIDER AUTOMOTIVE SECTORIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND THE CONSOLIDATION INTO A SINGLE CODE OF CHANGES AFFECTING FOREIGN CAPITAL. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 00682 212033Z

2. LLERAS STILL IN RACE. FOLLOWING A FIVE-MONTH LONG POLITICAL SILENCE BY EX-PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS, WHICH HAD CAUSED SPECULATION THAT HE MIGHT HAVE ABANDONED HIS PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS, LLERAS INDICATED IN A TELEVISED STATEMENT THAT HE WAS STILL VERY INTERESTED IN, BUT WOULD NOT FIGHT FOR, THE 1978 LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. THE SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUSLY PHRASED STATEMENT WAS INTERPRETED

BY SPOKESMEN FOR LLERAS' PLICITICAL ADVERSARY, JULIO CESAR TURBAY, AS A RENUNCIATION, BUT MOST OTHER OBSERVERS VIEWED IT AS A REAFFIRMATION OF LLERAS' CANDIDACY FOR THE NOMINATION. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS PRIOR TO LLERAS' PRONOUNCEMENT, THE COORDINATOR OF THE LLERAS ORGANIZATION, AUGUSTO ESPINOSA, SAID THAT, SINCE TURBAY HAD VIRTUALLY CAPTURED THE "POLITICAL CLASS", LLERAS HOPED TO EVOKE A REACTION BY OTHER LEADING ELEMENTS OF COLOMBIAN PUBLIC LIFE TO STOP TURBAY AND SUPPORT LLERAS. SUCH SUPPORT, SAID ESPINOSA, WOULD HAVE TO COME TO LLERAS, AS HE WOULD NOT STOOP TO SEEKING IT ACTIVELY. COMMENT. IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW SUCH A SPONTANEOUS EVENT AS LLERAS SEEMS TO DESIRE MIGHT OCCUR. MEANWHILE, EFFORTS HAVE NOT PROSPERED TO FIND A THIRD, COMPROMISE CANDIDATE UPON WHOM ALL ANTI-TURBAY ELEMENTS IN THE LIBERAL PARTY MIGHT AGREE.

3. VIABLE POTENTIAL CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE APPEARS TO DROP OUT. FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BELISARIO BETANCUR, RECENTLY RESIGNED COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, ISSUED AN APPARENTLY DEFINITIVE REFUSAL ON JANUARY 20 TO BE THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1978. BETANCUR HAS BROAD SUPPORT IN THE DIVIDED PARTY FOR THE NOMINATION, DESPITE THE FACT THAT MANY CONSERVATIVES DISTRUST WHAT THEY TERM HIS "LEFTIST" LEANINGS, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE HE COULD BE A WINNER IN THE EVENT THAT TURBAY IS THE LIBERAL CANDIDATE. BETANCUR WOULD HAVE BROAD APPEAL TO NON-CONSERVATIVES, INCLUDING LIBERALS WHO WOULD BE ALIENATED FROM THEIR PARTY BY A TURBAY CANDIDACY. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER BETANCUR'S RENUNCIATION WITHSTANDS PRESSURES THAT WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 00682 212033Z

BROUGHT TO BEAR FOR HIM TO SEEK HIS PARTY'S CANDIDACY.

4. COFFEE SITUATION. THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE A TOPIC OF INTEREST, ALTHOUGH NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE U.S. CONSUMER BOYCOTT HAS LESSENED SOMEWHAT. ARTURO GOMEZ JARAMILLO, MANAGER OF THE COLOMBIAN COFFEE FEDERATION, HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FURTHER PRICE INCREASES WILL HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN THE MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES. IN PRESS INTERVIEWS AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, GOMEZ HAS STRESSED THE NEED TO STABILIZE PRICES, SUGGESTING THAT THIS MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH THE PRICING MECHANISMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT. GOMEZ' PREFERENCE IS THAT THE SUBJECT BE STUDIED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ICO RATHER THAN BY SUBMITTING IT TO A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AT THIS TIME. HE HAS WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT COOPERATION ON PRICE STABILIZATION BY THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES MUST BE RECIPROCATED BY THE CONSUMER NATIONS IN THE FORM OF A LONG TERM AGREEMENT TO PREVENT A DRAMATIC DECLINE IN COFFEE PRICES. (BOGOTA 00586).

5. ANDEAN PACT. THE ANDEAN JUNTA HELD MEETINGS THIS WEEK IN BOGOTA TO PRESENT DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR AUTOMOTIVE SECTORIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND FOR CONSOLIDATION INTO A SINGLE CODE OF RECENT CHANGES AFFECTING FOREIGN CAPITAL. THE PROPOSAL TO REARRANGE AUTOMOTIVE ASSIGNMENTS RESULTING FROM CILE'S WITHDRAWAL WILL BE TAKEN UP IN LIMA EARLY THIS YEAR. THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY ARE STUDYING THE PROOSAL; NEITHER HAS MADE KNOWN THEIR INITIAL REACTIONS TO IT.(BOGOTA 00601).
SANCHEZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BOGOTA00682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0513
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770131/aaaabazw.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 911561d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3543071
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE WEEK IN COLOMBIA
TAGS: PINT, ECON, CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/911561d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009